



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

is that the author has not been uniform in his symbol for doubt "(?)." Occasionally he seems, as in the case of "370?" for Pappus, to depart from the best authorities, but this is rare. Among the questionable dates which are given without the interrogation sign, those attached to the following may be mentioned: Thales, Archytas, Plato (347), Leonardo of Pisa (1175), Girard and Ceva.

As to the style in which the work is written opinions are apt to differ considerably. One cannot say that the expressions, like "a leathern document," "pretty proofs," and the German "flowering time" are incorrect; they simply sound odd. So the legal right to coin the word "abacal" must be unquestioned, as also the continued use of expressions of which the following is a type: "Famous is his application of the last theorem." It must be confessed, however, that there are numerous examples of a style which seems somewhat out of place in a serious work of this nature. But, after all, the book is interesting, and that is a great desideratum in such a contribution.

DAVID EUGENE SMITH

MICHIGAN STATE NORMAL SCHOOL
Ypsilanti

NOTES

THE Committee on College Entrance Requirements held a preliminary meeting at Indianapolis, on February 17.

THE April number of the *SCHOOL REVIEW* will contain the full report of the February meeting of the North Central Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools.

THE Harvard summer school and the summer session of the Lawrence Scientific school are announcing their courses in good season. They have done much to give dignity to summer study, and deserve highly of the summer school public. Instruction begins Tuesday, July 6.

ON the anniversary of the centennial of the birth of Mary Lyon, the founder of Mt. Holyoke College, February 28, 1897, the alumnae and friends of that fine institution are endeavoring to raise an endowment fund of \$200,000, to which Dr. D. K. Pearsons, of Chicago, has given conditionally, \$50,000.

WORCESTER ACADEMY sees its way to a new science building which will, it is expected, be ready for occupancy next September. Not only will this building provide room that is greatly needed, but it will also afford facilities for developing a system of advanced science teaching in secondary schools,

the progress of which will be of interest and importance to the secondary education of the whole country.

THE Division of Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture has issued an interesting circular on "Bird Day in the Schools." Bird Day, it seems, is more than a suggestion. It has already been adopted in at least two cities with marked success, viz., Oil City, Pa., and Fort Madison, Ia. The idea seems to have originated independently with Superintendent C. A. Babcock, of the former, and Superintendent C. H. Morrill of the latter. The educational and economic importance of the innovation are set forth in the circular which deserves wide reading by teachers.

THE Western Passenger Association has granted, for the Milwaukee meeting of the National Educational Association, July 6-9, a rate of one fare plus \$2.50 for the round trip (\$2 on account of membership fee and 50 cents on account of expenses of Joint Railway Agency at Milwaukee. Tickets will be on sale July 3, 4, and 5, from all points in Western Passenger Association territory east of the eastern state lines of Colorado and Wyoming, and on July 2, 3 and 4 from all points west thereof. An extension of time limit for return, until August 31, 1897, will be granted on tickets deposited with Joint Agent at Milwaukee on or before July 12, 1897.

THE report of President Schurman, of Cornell University, for 1895-6, contains a very significant comparative table of work done by students admitted on certificate, and by those admitted as a result of Cornell examinations. The results for the six years 1889-1895 show that of those entering Cornell University on its own examinations, 18.53 per cent. failed to maintain their standing and were dropped; that of those entering on certificates other than regents' diplomas, 11.14 per cent. proved deficient, while of those entered on regents' diplomas, only 6.46 per cent. failed to maintain a satisfactory standing. This statement seems to show clearly that regents' diplomas give much better results than other certificates, and is an added proof of the high standing of New York secondary schools, of which the United States Commissioner of Education writes as follows: "It is unquestionable that the New York state regents' examinations have tended to raise the average standard of instruction in the academies and high schools, to extend and improve school programmes, to bring schools and colleges together by doing away with useless diversities of programmes in secondary schools and useless diversities of admission requirements in colleges, and to stimulate some of the communities which maintain these schools, to give them better support and to take pride in their standing. These are great services which deserve the respectful attention of the other states of the Union, and of all persons interested in the creation of an American system of secondary education. The regents have proved that a state examining board can exercise a stimulating,

elevating, and unifying influence upon hundreds of institutions of secondary education scattered over a large state, and can wield that power with machinery which, considering the scale of operations, may fairly be called simple and inexpensive."

FOREIGN NOTES

At a congress held in London, England, during the month of January, the subject of "Rural School Education and Equipment" was the absorbing topic, and the revelations of that meeting ought to stir up the people of England to a sense of their duty in this most important branch of education. It is no wonder that the agricultural and poorer village classes compare so unfavorably with those in our country when the deplorable educational facilities are exposed to view. The buildings are antiquated, poorly lighted, badly ventilated, many of them ten to twenty minutes' walk from the water supply, and one school in Essex is mentioned where the teacher is allowed four pence a week to give attention to the sanitary arrangements and the cleaning of the school. Over 700 of the village certificated head masters are each in receipt of a wage that does not touch thirty shillings a week and the schoolmistresses receive barely half that amount. But to secure this coveted position the applicant must often undertake to perform a variety of other tasks sometimes at a few pounds extra per year, but more often as a labor of love. One lady teaches sixty-six children (comprising seven grades and infants) with the help of a pupil teacher. In addition she is organist, choir trainer, Sunday-school superintendent, and superintendent of savings bank. The school boards are ignorant and niggardly, looking for the *cheapest* teacher no matter what the professional qualifications may be, and altogether it is a great blot on English civilization. We are glad to see that the Teachers' Union under whose auspices this congress was held has now a membership of 36,500 and is united in demanding that the proposed Education Bill shall provide for the redress of some of the greater grievances.

The Modern Language Association of England held a most inspiring and enthusiastic meeting in December last when stirring addresses were delivered by the chairman, Right Hon. Sir John Lubbock, Bart., and Sir Joshua Fitch. Their speeches were eminently practical and very suggestive, and, as published in the *Journal of Education*, present a very strong case for the proper recognition of modern languages in the curricula of our schools. Students on this side of the Atlantic will be interested to know that the association is to publish a journal representative of the current thought and investigation of the day under three editors, one for German and the Teutonic languages, one for French and the Romance languages, and one for English. Relying on support from those engaged in teaching these languages, the editors hope that it will soon take rank with the *Journal of Classical Studies*.

The English schools are trying to keep up their enviable reputation for inducing the pupils to engage in all kinds of manly outdoor sport and ath-